

On this affirmation, further, she was ready for the emotional transformation of her life, now at hand

In contributing, in 1928, some *Reminiscences* to the *St Martin's Review*, (Reminiscences fascinatingly different in tone and approach from those which Sidney contributes to the same periodical,) she opens that dedicated to The Consumers' Co-operative Movement by saying

"If I had to answer in half a dozen words why I became a Socialist, I should say 'because I discovered the Co-operative Movement', and 'because I allowed another six words to complete this tabloid confession, I should add and discussed it with Sidney Webb'"

The mysterious tides of fate were, in fact, swiftly now bringing them together Her fiancé, J J Dent, had talked to her of the Fabians, and told her that

"the man who organises the whole business, drafts the resolutions and writes the tracts, is Sidney Webb "

But of the Fabians she knew as yet nothing but the names When in 1889 a sudden turn of the tide in her father's illness called her away from her Co-operative work, and she was face to face with the fact that he might now linger on, hardly conscious, in a veritable death-rattle, for months or even years, a mood of despair again almost overwhelmed her, and a sense of the wanton cruelty of life At times, he hardly knew her at all, she was for him the "little Bee" of years ago, and he murmured

"I want one more son-in-law"—a remark that she took as a proof that he felt near his end, since, for

her, he had
previously discouraged matrimony She did
not then
suspect, and Mr Potter was never to know,
how near
that son-in-law now was When she read
Fabian *Essays*
at The Argoed in the intervals of nursing her
father, she
"spotted" him, but had no idea then of an
early meeting
Yet that meeting was to take place in the
first days of